

**AGENDA
MAINE STATE HARNESS RACING COMMISSION
MEETING**

June 23, 2017

Gambling Control Board Conference Room
Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine

Starting Time 9:00 a.m.

- 1. Call the Meeting to Order and Introductions:** William Varney, Chair
- 2. Review and Approval of Minutes
Review and Approval of Decision and Orders**
- 3. Adjudicatory Hearings:**
 - a. RE: Reopening the 2017 Race Date Hearing.** Pursuant to 8 M.R.S. § 271, § 275-N and Commission Rule Chapter 19, Section 10, the Commission may reopen the race dates and licensing hearing upon a motion of a licensee to take testimony relative to the assignment of race dates for 2017 regarding Oxford County Agricultural Society; Oxford Fair.
 - b. RE: Steven Vafiades, Preliminary Denial of 2017 Groom License Application**
Mr. Vafiades is appealing the decision of a Preliminary Denial of his 2017 application for licensing as a groom. The Preliminary Denial was issued pursuant to Chapter 1, Section 10, Subsection 10 (D), Chapter 17, Section 1, 2, 8, and 12.
 - c. RE: Eric Davis, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 4.** Mr. Davis is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Davis is trainer of record for the horse “Nabber Again”. A blood sample obtained from Nabber Again following the Sixth Race at Bangor Raceway on May 24, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Boldenone.
 - d. RE: Eric Davis, Complaint Number 2017 MSHRC 5.** Mr. Davis is alleged to have violated MSHRC Rules Chapter 7 and 11. Mr. Davis is trainer of record for the horse “Nabber Again”. A blood sample obtained from Nabber Again following the Fifth Race at Scarborough Downs on May 27, 2017 disclosed an elevated level of Boldenone.
- 4. Other business:**
 - a. Request by Kevin Gee to Address the Commission.** Mr. Gee has requested an opportunity to address the Commission about its policy requiring the return of the entire purse when the owner only receives 90% of it. Mr. Gee would also like to address the Commission about variability of prohibited substance sanctions.

(over)

- b. Rulemaking Priorities.** The Commission will review other rulemaking options to determine its next priorities.
 - c. Consideration of Allocating Additional Funds to Marketing.** On January 23, 2017, the Executive Director reviewed the “Annual Report on Use of Funds” in front of the Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. Committee members expressed concern about the lack of progress on the part of the harness racing industry in better promoting itself and working toward self-reliance. The Executive Director stated that improving marketing is an industry priority and that it was exploring ideas. Some constituents favor utilizing additional Commission funds as part of that effort.
 - d. Interpretation of Commission Rule Chapter 7, Section 31, Coupled Entries.** Questions have arisen about the meaning, application, and enforcement of Commission Rule Chapter 7, Section 31, Coupled Entries. For instance, can a trainer transfer a horse to a different trainer for the purposes of entering multiple horses in a race? What does the term “stable” mean in this context? The Commission staff is seeking guidance on the intent and administration of this section.
- 5. Reports**
Executive Director’s Report
- 6. Public Comment**
- 7. Schedule of Future Meetings:**
July 21, 2017
August 18, 2017
- 8. Adjourn**